

REMARKS

Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of April 23, 2010. In addition, Examiner's indication of the allowable subject matters is noted with appreciation. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, and 12 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the subject matter of claim 21 has been incorporated into claim 20. No new matter has been introduced through these amendments.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borran et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0094740) in view of Hottinen (U.S. Patent No. 7,447,270).

The Examiner has indicated claim 21 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 20, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim 20. By way of this reply, claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Accordingly, amended independent claim 20 is now believed patentable. Therefore, favorable consideration of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-19 are allowed. Claim 21 has been canceled. Accordingly, the objection of claim 21 is deemed moot.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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